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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re Application**

Inventor: James D. Thornton et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/740,076  
Confirm. No.: 4563  
Filed: December 19, 2000  
Title: Method and System for Executing Batch Jobs by  
Delegating Work to Independent Service Providers

**PATENT APPLICATION**

Art Unit: 2174  
Examiner: Anh T. Nguyen  
Docket No. D/99578

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on the date  
shown below via facsimile to Commissioner for Patents at 703/872-9306,  
total pages = 19.

By: Linda Saunders Dated: 9/8/04  
Linda Saunders

**REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Reply is in response to the final Office Action dated June 16, 2004.

**Listing of the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.